

**DRONFIELD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**HEALTH OF
DRONFIELD**

for

1949

By **JOHN REID GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**
Medical Officer of Health.

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Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1949.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my report on the health of the district for the year 1949.

The vital statistics are quite satisfactory with the exception that for the first time for some years there is a death reported from puerperal causes.

The birth rate is up and the infantile death rate is down compared with the previous year. Of course, the numbers are so small that a single birth or infantile death can make quite an appreciable difference in the rate.

There has been no occasion during the year to make use of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Again I take this opportunity of thanking all members of the Council and my colleagues for their help and support in carrying out my duties.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. GRAHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Population (Registrar General's Figure) 7,400

BIRTH RATE.

17.43 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
17.56 per 1,000 (Live and Still) births.

DEATH RATE.

14.45 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	1
From other causes	...	...	...	...	Nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	31.00
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	15.74
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	1,000.00
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

BIRTHS IN DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Live Births.					
Males :	Total	67—	Legitimate	...	65
			Illegitimate	...	2
Females :	Total	62—	Legitimate	...	62
			Illegitimate	...	Nil
Still Births.					
Males :	Total	Nil—	Legitimate	...	Nil
			Illegitimate	...	Nil
Females :	Total	1—	Legitimate	...	1
			Illegitimate	...	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Males :	Total	2—	Legitimate	...	1
			Illegitimate	...	1
Females :	Total	2—	Legitimate	...	1
			Illegitimate	...	1

HOUSING AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

As reported in 1948, while the housing position is not by any means satisfactory in itself, it is in comparison with many areas very good. During the year 50 houses have been erected by the Council and 9 by private enterprise. In addition, an old lodging house (a frequent source of complaint in the past) has been converted into 6 flats.

This programme is a very creditable achievement of an area of 7,400 inhabitants.

In 1950 it is hoped that the proposed bungalows for elderly people will be completed. In addition to providing suitable accommodation for the elderly people it is hoped that some two or three bedroom type houses will be thus available for occupation by married couples with families.

The district is fortunate in having a diversity of industries mostly of the lighter type of steel products. In fact it would be difficult to find such a diversity of industries in any other place of its size.

In addition, it is hoped that by 1950 a large biscuit factory will have started production.

It has been mentioned before that Dronfield is also a "dormitory township" for Sheffield.

With this diversity of industry and interests the Urban Area can look forward with some degree of confidence to a successful and prosperous future.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

This has been a very good year; only 8 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and 35 cases of measles of the common infectious diseases. One case of pneumonia and one case of erysipelas were notified. No deaths were recorded.

It is also a matter of satisfaction that there was only one case of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

Disease.	Total Number Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	8	8	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Measles	35	1	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS RETURN FOR 1949.

NEW CASES.

DEATHS.

Age Period.	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ...	—	—	...	—	...	—	—	...	—
1 & over...	—	—	...	3	...	—	—	...	—
5 & over...	—	—	...	—	...	—	—	...	—
15 & over...	—	—	...	—	...	—	—	...	—
25 & over...	—	—	...	—	...	—	—	...	—
35 & over...	1	—	...	—	...	—	—	...	—
45 & over...	—	—	...	—	...	1	—	...	—
55 & over...	—	—	...	—	...	—	—	...	—
65 & over...	—	—	...	—	...	—	—	...	—
Total ...	1	—	...	3	...	1	—	...	—

Not Primary.

Not Notified.

Cases
included
above

... — ... — ... — ... — ... —

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1949. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.	Dorset Urban District Council.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Births:—					
Live Births ...	16.7 (a)	18.7	18.0	18.5	17.43
Still Births ...	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.37	0.13
Deaths:—					
All Causes ...	11.7 (a)	12.5	11.6	12.2	14.45
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52	0.13
Influenza ...	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.40
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ...	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59	0.00
Notifications (corrected):—					
Typhoid fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Scarlet fever ...	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	1.08
Whooping cough ...	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.13
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ...	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	4.73
Pneumonia ...	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	0.13
Acute poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18	0.00
Acute polio-encephalitis ...	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00
Food Poisoning ...	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19	0.00
Deaths:— Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
All causes under 1 year of age ...	32(b)	37	30	29	31
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	0.00
Notifications (corrected):—					
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.					
Puerperal fever and pyrexia ...	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	0.00

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

International List No. and cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15-44.	Dronfield U.D.C.
140. Abortion with sepsis ...	0.11	8	1
141. Abortion without sepsis...	0.05	4	-
147. Puerperal infections ...	0.11	-	-
142-146, 148-150. Other maternal causes	0.71	-	-
(a) Rates per 1,000 total population. (b) Per 1,000 related live births.			

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1949.

	Male.	Female.
All causes ...	49	58
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	0	0
Syphilitic diseases ...	0	0
Influenza ...	0	3
Measles ...	0	0
Ac. Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph. ...	0	0
Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph (M)	1	
Uterus (F)		1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	0
Cancer of Breast ...	0	0
Cancer of other sites ...	6	6
Diabetes ...	0	0
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	5	5
Heart Disease ...	15	23
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	1	1
Bronchitis ...	1	4
Pneumonia ...	0	0
Other respiratory disease ...	2	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	1	0
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	0	0
Appendicitis ...	0	1
Other Digestive diseases ...	2	4
Nephritis ...	4	4
Puer. and Post-Abortion Sepsis ...	0	1
Other Maternal Causes ...	0	0
Premature Birth ...	1	0
Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Infant Dis. ...	0	1
Suicide ...	0	1
Road Traffic accident ...	1	0
Other violent causes ...	2	0
All other causes ...	5	3

POOLSBROOK TREATMENT CENTRE.

The numbers treated at the Centre again show a decrease; 128 compared with 243 in 1948, though there is an increase in the numbers treated for head infestation.

The Supervisor of the Centre reports on head infestation as follows:—

“ Now that the public has had ample opportunity to use such preparations as D.D.T. for the eradication of head vermin its efficacy, from a public health standpoint, may be now more readily assessed. Although we are not seeing the high number of cases of verminous heads as hitherto I am struck by the reduced louse infestation, generally, when nits are found. Quite often a child may have a good nit infestation, but few lice. This is against previous experience as it has been shown there is a definite and positive relationship between the heaviness of the nit infestation and the numbers of lice found.

“ It does seem to me that D.D.T. is extensively and wastefully used to destroy the vermin, as often I am told of mothers using some preparation one or more times weekly; most of these cases have no steel tooth comb. Thus we have the spectacle of old nits being prevalent, some laid many months ago, yet a small louse population. Too many mothers struggle unnecessarily with either a bone comb or a much worn-out steel comb.”

TREATMENT CENTRE, POOLSBROOK.

Number of cases, 198.

	Adults.	5—15.	Under 5.	Total.
SCABIES.				
Bolsover U.D.C. ...	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield Borough...	14	8	6	28
Chesterfield R.D.C. ...	31	10	4	45
Clay Cross U.D.C. ...	0	3	0	3
Clowne R.D.C. ...	22	18	6	46
Dronfield U.D.C. ...	0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C. ...	3	3	0	6
	70	42	16	128

HEAD LICE.				
Bolsover U.D.C. ...	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield Borough...	0	5(3)	0	5(3)
Chesterfield R.D.C. ...	0	10(10)	1(1)	11(11)
Clay Cross U.D.C. ...	1(1)	0	0	1(1)
Clowne R.D.C. ...	0	1(1)	1(1)	2(2)
Dronfield U.D.C. ...	0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C. ...	0	22(15)	1(1)	23(16)
	1(1)	38(29)	3(3)	42(33)

SCABIES WITH VERMINOUS HEADS.				
Bolsover U.D.C. ...	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield Borough...	2(2)	2(2)	0	4(4)
Chesterfield R.D.C. ...	1(1)	2(2)	1(1)	4(4)
Clay Cross U.D.C. ...	0	0	0	0
Clowne R.D.C. ...	0	3(3)	0	3(3)
Dronfield U.D.C. ...	0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C. ...	0	0	0	0
	3(3)	7(7)	1(1)	11(11)

Diagnosis not confirmed	13
Miscellaneous ...	9
Pediculosis Corporis ...	3 (Chesterfield R.D.C. Adults).
Pediculosis Pubis ...	3 (Staveley U.D.C. Adults).
	—
	28
	—

Note.—The numbers in brackets refer to those on whom live lice were found.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS.

Number of children who completed the full course of immunisation in the Authority's area during the year 1949 :—

Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5—9 inclusive.	10—14 inclusive.	Total.
1	14	5	—	1	3	3	27

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply has been adequate in quantity and quality.

Samples are taken at regular intervals by the N.E. Derbyshire Joint Water Committee's officials and by your own Sanitary Inspector. Any unsatisfactory samples are reported immediately to the department concerned so that remedial measures can be taken.

SUMMARY OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Supply.	Number Taken.			Result.
Mains	...	16	...	Satisfactory.
Wells	...	2	...	1 Satisfactory.
				1 Very Unsatisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year ended 31st December, 1949.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my report on the work of the Health Department during 1949.

GENERAL INFORMATION APPERTAINING TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DRONFIELD.

Estimated Population	...	...	...	7,400.
Area	...	...	...	3,457 acres.
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	2,336.
Rateable Value 1949/50	...	...	...	£35,324.
Rate Levied 1949/50	...	...	...	£1 0s. 5d.
Product of 1d. rate 1949/50	...	...	...	£138.

HOUSING.

During the year under review the local authority completed 49 houses for letting, over the same period 50 families were re-housed in council houses, but the waiting list is still formidably large.

House Exchange. The policy of helping tenants in this respect has resulted in 11 exchanges taking place over the year.

Private enterprise building resulted in the erection of 9 houses and the conversion of a block of existing property into 6 flats.

One dwelling was condemned under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

One part dwelling was closed under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Six premises previously condemned were demolished and the sites cleared.

The repair of existing property to keep it in a reasonably fit state of habitation is not being carried forward as I should wish; when one considers the cost of present day repairs and the rents, the reason becomes obvious.

REFUSE COLLECTION DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

The Dennis 10 cube yard refuse collection vehicle bought new in June, 1946, is standing up to the work very well and maintenance costs have been reasonable.

Another 64 new houses and flats and 27 new bins as a result of midden conversion give a final total of 91 extra bins to empty each week over and above the 1948 collection.

On May 2nd, 1949, the first load of household refuse was tipped on the new tip in Wreakes Lane, the old tip at Half Acre Lane has been sealed off and seeded down as required by agreement with the agent of the land.

Salvage has been a disappointment this year mainly due to a restricted market and very much reduced prices. Following is a list of materials collected and sold during the year.

MATERIALS COLLECTED AND SOLD.

				Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
Waste paper	...	...	...	45	16	3
Kitchen waste	...	...	...	37	12	0
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	4	14	0
Cullet (broken glass)	...	...	...	8	14	0
Textiles	...	...	...	2	18	0
Bones	...	...	...	—	6	0
Scrap Iron	...	...	...	23	14	0
Non-ferrous Metals	...	...	...	—	6	0
Cinders	...	...	...	1	13	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...		14	2
Giving a Total of				126	8	1

The total income from the whole of the above was £510 16s. 0d.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following premises were registered for the sale of ice cream :—

- 1, Wilson Street, Dronfield (P. Rawson).
- 28, Princess Road, Dronfield (G. Redfern).
- 58, Chesterfield Road, Dronfield (F. M. Jackson).
- Post Office Buildings, Dronfield (E. Kay).
- 1, Hartington Road, Dronfield (J. P. Wells).
- 60, Chesterfield Road, Dronfield (P. Lockwood).
- 44, Searsdale Road, Dronfield (F. Neath).

CONVERSIONS.

Twelve middens and 9 pail closets were converted to water closets, giving a total of 36 new water closets.

Two middens were converted to pail closets, sewers not being available, 6 pail closets being provided in this case.

As a result of the new sewer being laid in the Dronfield Woodhouse area, 67 cesspools were discontinued and filled in.

CONDEMNED FOOD STUFFS.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

- 3 stones smoked fillet.
- 5 stones plaice.
- 2 tins prawns.
- 2 stones kippers.
- 5 stones lemon sole.
- 21½ lbs. rabbit.
- 280 lbs. margarine.
- 6 lbs. lard.

MILK SAMPLING.

A number of milk samples were submitted for examination—results as follows :—

- 13 samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.
- 5 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test.
- 5 samples satisfied the guinea pig test.
- 1 sample failed the guinea pig test.

With regard to the milk sample which showed evidence of Tubercle Bacilli, this was reported for veterinary investigation with a result that the cow affected was removed from the herd and slaughtered.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACT,

1944.

On the 1st October, 1949, the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, came into operation with the result that all stages of milk production at the farms passed from the control of the local authority to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The local authority so far as it affects this authority is

now responsible for the control of milk on the distribution side only.

Whether these new arrangements will lead to any improvement on the production side is a matter of opinion; it will certainly give the farmer another lot of visitors (who in most cases are complete strangers) to cope with.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Eight slaughterman's licences were renewed during the year.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Fourteen licences were granted for the storage of Petroleum Spirit.

One licence for the storage of Calcium Carbide.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

The sewers were given two treatments during the year in accordance with accepted practice and requirements.

Private premises and our own refuse tips and sewage works were given attention and there are no large infestations in the area.

RECORD OF VISITS AND WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

	Visits.
Conversion of privy middens to water closets ...	152
Ash pits converted to dust bins ...	2
Defective water closets ...	26
Defective pail closets ...	7
Choked drains ...	58
Defective drains ...	29
New drains ...	145
Drain testing ...	140
Cesspools ...	27
Defective dust bins ...	108
General housing defects ...	107
Council house maintenance ...	548
Refuse collection and salvage ...	161
Land Charges Enquiry ...	38
Water sampling ...	22
Water supplies ...	33
Factories sanitary accommodation ...	16
Alleged dirty houses ...	12
Infectious diseases ...	12
Offensive smells ...	1
Petroleum licences ...	21
Piggeries ...	19
Ice Cream manufacturers and retailers ...	15
Nuisances from animals, poultry, etc. ...	7
Housing Act, 1936 ...	7
Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ...	37
Rats and Mice Destruction Act ...	42
Places of Entertainment ...	1
Miscellaneous ...	86

WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

	Visits.
Number of middens converted to water closets ...	12
Number of middens converted to pail closets ...	2
Number of pail closets to water closets ...	9
Number of water closets provided on conversions ...	36
Number of pails provided ...	6
Water closets repaired ...	16
Choked drains cleared ...	17
Houses affected ...	44
Defective drains repaired ...	27
New drains constructed ... 3201 of 4in. drain	
Cesspools discontinued ...	67
Cesspools repaired ...	5
Ventilation stacks erected ...	48ft.
Drains tested ...	140
New manholes constructed ...	45
New trapped gullies fixed ...	6
New sinks fitted ...	2
Dry ashpits replaced by dustbins ...	8
Dustbins supplied ...	88
House chimneys repaired ...	5
House roofs repaired ...	17
New eaves spouts fitted ...	222ft.
House floors repaired ...	8
House doors repaired ...	7
House wallplaster repaired ...	21
House ceilings repaired ...	15
House fireplaces repaired or renewed ...	7
House windows repaired ...	11
Yard pavings repaired ...	5
Burst water pipes repaired ...	9
Damp proof courses inserted ...	2
Dis-infestations carried out ...	3

ERIC M. HOUSECROFT,

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.



